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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

PAUL M. ENQUIST

: EXAMINER: VICTOR V. YEVSIKOV

SERIAL NO: 10/688,910

:

FILED: OCTOBER 21, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2825

FOR: SINGLE MASK VIA METHOD
AND DEVICE

:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2004, please reconsider the the above-identified application in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-64 are present in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Patent Application Publication 2002/0094661 (Enquist et al.). Claims 27-48 have been allowed and claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21-26 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. No claim is amended.

The Applicants greatly appreciate the allowance of claims 27-48 and the finding of claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21-26 to recite patentable subject matter. The Applicants also greatly appreciate the discussion with Examiner Yevsikov where it was agreed that Enquist et al. does not disclose claim 1. In particular, there is no method disclosed where one mask is used to etch through a first element and expose a first contact structure in the first element, etch through a bond interface between first and second elements, and expose a second contact structure in the second element. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

It is therefore respectfully submitted the present application is in condition for allowance, and a favorable decision to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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